

Am

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/775,560	LEITH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Terry L. Englund	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt (Sep 14, 2005).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 15, line 3: changed "saidamplifierandsaidcapacitor;and" to --said amplifier and
said capacitor; and--.

Although lines 3-4 of the original version of claim 15 had spacing between the claim/s words, some of those spaces were missing in the amended version submitted on Sep 14, 2005. Therefore, this change to claim 15 merely adds those spaces back into the claim.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Sep 14, 2005 has been reviewed and considered with the following results:

The amended paragraphs overcame the objections to the disclosure as described in the previous Office Action. Therefore, those objections have now been withdrawn.

Amended claims 3, 14, 18, 20, and 21 overcame the objections to claims 3-10, and 14-22, and those objections have also been withdrawn. Although an inadvertent oversight (i.e. missing spaces between words) was found in claim 15, that concern was addressed/corrected by the Examiner's Amendment described above.

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Amended claims 11, 15, and 22 overcame the rejections of claims 11-19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, as described in the previous Office Action. Those rejections have now been withdrawn.

The amended claims also overcame the rejections of: 1) claims 11 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), with a respect to Grant et al.; 2) claims 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), with respect to Umemoto; 3) claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), with respect to Yamamaura et al.; 4) claims 14, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), with respect to Grant et al./Dunn et al.; and 5) claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with respect to Yamamaura et al./Dunn et al. None of these references clearly shows/discloses the comparing of the compensation signal with a predetermined ramp level, and the providing of a startup complete signal, as now recited within independent claims 11 and 20. Therefore, all of the previous Office Action's prior art rejections have been withdrawn.

There is no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the startup circuit, or controller, for a power converter as recited in apparatus claims 1 and 11, respectively, or the method of startup protection for a DC-DC converter as recited in method claim 20. More specifically, none of the references clearly shows or discloses: 1) the specific relationships between the error amplifier, amplifier circuit, comparator, and startup logic to the numerous signals cited (i.e. output sense signal, startup reference signal, compensation signal, second reference signal, start signal, startup complete signal, and output enable signal) as recited within

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claim 1 (upon which claims 2-10 depend); 2) a comparator that compares the compensation signal with a predetermined ramp level, and then provides a startup complete signal, as recited within claim 11 (upon which claims 12-19 depend); or 3) the combination of ramping up voltage of a reference input, comparing the compensation signal with a predetermined ramp level, providing the startup complete signal, and the enabling of the output switching, as recited within claim 20 (upon which claims 21-22 depend). Since there is no strong motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure all the limitations, within any of the independent claims are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 1-22 are allowed.

PRIOR ART

The prior art reference on the accompanying PTO-892 is cited for interest and documentation purposes only. Although its Fig. 1 closely corresponds to the present application's Fig. 1, two (i.e. Mehas and Leith) of the three co-inventors are the inventors of the present application, and Intersil Americas Inc. is also the assignee of the present application, the filing/provisional dates (Jun 10, 2004/Mar 5, 2004) of this reference are after the Feb 10, 2004 filing date of the present application, and some of the cited limitations (e.g. minimum/maximum voltages) of this reference are not clearly cited in the present application's claims. Therefore, the present claims of the Mehas et al. reference are deemed patentably distinct over the present application's claims.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

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issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743.

The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (571) 273-8300.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TLE

Terry L. Englund

23 November 2005


Kenneth B. Wells
Primary Examiner